

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 SIL-01 /085 W
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R 090809Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP PEPR NL UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT THE NETHERLANDS

1. FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME SOVIET VISITED THE NETHERLANDS APRIL 17-25. VITALY RUBEN HEADED A DELEGATION THAT INCLUDED ALEKSEY SMIRNOV, VIKTOR PAPUTIN, AKBAR ATAKHOYAEV, AND DIMITRI IVASTAHUK. THEY WERE RETURNING A VISIT BY DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO MOSCOW TWO YEARS AGO. THE SOVIET OFFICIALS MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW, AND THE COMBINED FIRST AND SECOND CHAMBER COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THEY HAD AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF VISITS TO DUTCH INDUSTRIES (INCLUDING PHILIPS), ECONOMIC COUNCILS, AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS.

2. THE VISIT WAS A FLOP. MEETING WITH THE SOVIET MPS ON THE THIRD DAY, DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS WASTED NO TIME ON AMENITIES, BUT INSTEAD QUESTIONED THE DELEGATION CLOSELY ON DISSIDENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS RESTRICTIONS AND THE POSITION OF JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION. FROM THERE, THE VISIT WENT DOWNHILL. AT A SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION, SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOV REFUSED TO ACCEPT PERSONALLY A LETTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS FROM LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS,

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POINTING TO THE MAIL BOX INSTEAD. IN ANOTHER PROTEST, HEWS HELD A DEMONSTRATIVE PASSOVER MEAL IN FRONT OF THE THE SOVIET EMBASSY. THE DELEGATION CANCELLED A PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

3. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS RECEIVED PLENTY OF DUTCH HOSPITALITY. HOWEVER, NEITHER DUTCH PUBLIC NOR OFFICIALDOM

SEEMED PREPARED TO LISTEN TO STANDARD SOVIET PLATITUDES,
WHICH INCLUDED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ERW. THE SERIES OF CONFRONT-
ATIONS WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN CO-
ORDINATED BY PRIVATE CITIZENS IN COOPERATION WITH DUTCH
PARLIAMENTARIANS. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WAS HARDLY MORE
FORTHCOMING. ACCORDING TO MFA SPOKESMAN ON APRIL 20, VAN DER
KLAUW REAFFIRMED DUTCH REFUSAL OF THE DELEGATIONS'S
REQUEST TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN ROTTERDAM.

BROWN

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Message Attributes

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